

CLAIMS

1. A wireless telephone apparatus, comprising:
  - a wireless telephone handset;
  - a base unit having a cradle for removably supporting the telephone handset, a base housing containing at least a charger for connection to the handset when supported in the cradle, and a hinge joint rotatably connecting the cradle to the base housing;
  - the base housing having a first wall for placing against a mounting surface and a second wall facing in the opposite direction to the first wall; and
  - the hinge joint having a first part on the second wall and a second part on the cradle which is rotatably connected to the first part to allow the cradle to be rotated into any one of a plurality of different orientations relative to the base housing.
2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first part of the hinge joint comprises a hinge arm on the second wall of the housing having a hinge receptacle with spaced end walls and a hinge pin extending between the end walls, and the second part comprises a hinge sleeve rotatably mounted on the hinge pin for rotation about a hinge axis.
3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the hinge sleeve is in rotational frictional engagement with at least a portion of the hinge pin, whereby the sleeve will be held in any selected orientation relative to the hinge pin unless positively urged into a new orientation.

4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cradle is rotatable through a predetermined angular range between a first end position lying against the second wall of the housing and a second end position.
5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the angular range is greater than ninety degrees.
6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cradle has a recess at a first end for receiving a lower end portion of the handset, the recess having an inner surface and an outer surface, the second part of the pivot joint being located on the outer surface of the recess, and a pair of electrical contacts mounted on the inner surface of the recess for contacting corresponding contacts on the handset when the handset is mounted in the cradle, and wiring extends from the contacts through the hinge joint and into the base housing for connection to electrical circuits in the housing.
7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first wall has at least one slot for selectively suspending the base housing from a wall hanger or the like with the first wall in a vertical orientation.
8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the first wall is a substantially flat surface and has feet for selectively standing the base housing on a horizontal surface.
9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the housing has an annular peripheral rim, and the second wall is of a generally convex shape.

10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first part of the hinge joint includes a hinge arm formed integrally with the second wall of the housing, the hinge arm comprising a hinge recess and a pair of end walls, and the first part further includes a hinge pin secured between the end walls.

11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the second part of the hinge joint comprises a hinge sleeve integrally formed with the cradle and rotatably engaged over the hinge pin.

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